



By the King.

A Proclamation for the prices of victuals
within the Verge of the Court.



Hereas heretofore divers Bakers, Brewers, Inholders, Butchers, and other Victualers, through their greedy desire of unlawfull gaine, not contented with reasonable profit in bitering and selling of Victuall vnto Our Subjects in the Common Wealth, and specially within the Verge of Our Court, where Our Nobilitie, Servants and Traine (daily attending vpon Our person) are lodged and placed by Our Harbengers, are unlawfully exacted vpon with unreasonable and extreme prices, by the said Victualers, enhaunsing the same Victuals, Horsmeat, Lodgings, and all other necessaries at a more deare price, then it was sold for (to Our common Subjects) before Our comming. And for that of late it appeareth vnto Us by the Records of Our Counting house, that all the Kings of this Realme, (Our progenitors) haue alwayes had a speciall care to restraine the excesse gaining by the aforesaid Victuallers and others within the Verge of their Courts, And also for that it further appeareth vnto Us, that of late more extreme exaction is vsed by the aforesaid Victuallers, and others towards Our servants, Traine and Suiters, attending Our Courts wheresoever we make Our abode, then heretofore hath bene, Nothing respecting Our Prerogative, nor the Lawes of Our Realme, Therefore Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby straitly charge and command, that all persons doe obey and keepe all such prices, as is and shalbe prised, assaressed, and rated by the Clarke of the Market of Our household Within the Verge of Our Court, aswell Within Liberties as without; And the Jurie before him, or his lawfull Deputie, by vertue of his office sworne and charged from time to time, The same rates and prices not onely to be certified by Our said Clarke of the Market, or his Deputie into Our Counting house, But also fixed and set vpon the Gates of Our Court, and other places within the Verge, aswell Within Liberties as without; And that no maner of the person or persons aforesaid, of what estate or degree soever he or they be, doe in any wise pay more for corne, Victuals, Horsmeat, Lodging or any other thing, then after the rate and forme aforesaid, vpon paine of imprisonment, and to be fined with further punishment that shall thereof follow, The same paines and punishments, and every part thereof to be executed vpon all those persons, and every of them which doe, or shall presume to aske or demand, biter and sell any maner of thing, or things, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation. And moreover we doe straitly charge and command, that no maner of person or persons, now vsing, or which hereafter shal vse, or of right ought to vse to serue any City, Borough, towne or other place where Our repose & abode is, or shalbe, or elsewhere Within the Verge of Our Courts, aswell Within Liberties as without, with any kind of Corne or Victuals, or other necessaries, aswell vpon the Market day, as at any other time, shall be any thing the more remisse or slacke for making of prouision for the same, then they or any of them heretofore haue beene, nor vse any colour of craft to deceiue the buyers thereof, Nor hide or lay aside their Corne, Victuals, Horsmeat, Lodgings, or any other necessaries to diminish the Market, whereby Our whole Traine within any City, Borough, towne, and other inhabitants of the same, and other Our Subjects thereunto resorting, should not be as wellserued and as plenteously furnished in every behalfe as it was before, or of right ought to haue beene in defraud of this Our ordinance. And furthermore we straitly charge and expressely Command all Our Officers of Greene cloth, Our Justices of Peace, Our Clarke of the Market, his Deputy or Deputies, Maiors, Bayliffes, Sherrifffes, Constables, and all other Our faithfull Officers and euery of them, of Cities, Boroughes, Townes, Hundreds and other places within the Verge of Our Court as well Within Liberties as without from time to time, When and as often as need shall require vpon Complaint by any partie justly made, diligently euery of them within their authoritie forthwith to endeour themselves to see just punishment, and due reformation of the premises against such person or persons as shall offend herein, according to Justice and prices, as aforesaid.

Given at Our Court of Whitehall the fifth day of Nouember in the eleuenth yeere of Our reigne of England, France and Ireland, And of Scotland the seuen and fortie.

God sauе the King.

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Kings most excellent Maiestie. A N N O D O M . 1613.